

MICHIGAN STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL  
TECHNOLOGISTS (MSA-AST)

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB4403

3/15/05 10:30AM

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My name is Joe Long

I am a Certified Surgical Technologist.

I have worked as a practitioner in this profession for 20 years, and in education, training future surgical technologists, for 9 years.

I hold two degrees from the University of Michigan, and my Doctoral Degree in Post-Secondary Education from the University of Sarasota.

I have a strong desire and commitment to this profession relative to quality and integrity, but above all else to ensure the highest standards, concerning the delivery of health care and utmost safety for ALL patients receiving medical care in the surgical suites throughout all hospitals in our Great State.

As previously mentioned, I serve in many capacities representing this profession both at the state and national levels. However, where my greatest enrichment and pride avails itself is in my ability to work in the trenches if you will, down the road here at LCC, in the didactic and mock lab settings, training the next generation of Certified Surgical Technologists.

Today, I am speaking on behalf of the Michigan State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists (MSA-AST), as a representative of the Government and Public Affairs Committee, in support of HB # 4403.

In speaking for support of this bill, I would like to provide some basic clarification relative to our profession, as to the specific entities which comprise this profession, the importance of basic didactic, lab, competency, and proven learned components for persons to practice in this field of surgical technology. In doing so, I hope to accomplish 2 things: One, for you to understand the necessity of persons working in this field to hold the entry level standard recognition of certification, and Two, the common theme that innervates all aspects of this profession: Aeger Primo.

**Recognition for the Profession: The Organization (AST)**

**Accreditation for the Programs (ARC-ST)**

**Certification for the Professional (LCC-ST)**

**The Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)**

- 1.) The (AST) Association of Surgical Technologists; The (LCC-ST) The Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologists; The (ARC-ST) The Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology; (CAAHEP) The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; and (MSA-AST) Michigan State Assembly for the Association of Surgical Technology.------(Handout)
- 2.) Other than the surgeon and anesthesia personnel, no other health care provider in the operating room receives mock clinical training prior to entering the surgery department; all others are trained on the job. Rapid advances in technology have required additional training components to be added to the core curriculum for surgical technologists, and continued life-long learning will be a must for persons in this field; therefore, certification should be a requirement to work in such a capacity, and continued educational credits as a requirement to maintain that certification. The biomedical sciences: Computers, Electricity, Physics, and Robotics have now been added to the curriculum as we prepare for Tele-Surgery.
- 3.) It is our hope and desire today to receive your support for House Bill No. 4403, as Certification for such persons should be a requirement to serve as an extension of the surgeon in the delivery of the highest health care possible for ALL citizens in our State. Without such support, grave results will surely be realized in time; we hope it does not come to this. Once again, AEGER PRIMO, which is the creed of such persons working in this field; translated it means “THE PATIENT FIRST”.

## Testimony (Cert for Surg Techs): Key Points (3/15/05)

1. According to the AST's Recommended Standards of Practice: "Certification through the process and procedures established by the Liaison Council for the Surgical Technologist (LCC-ST) ought to be required as a condition of employment in the field of surgical technology."
2. Surgery is inherently dangerous and everyone in the operating room should be regulated and have some level of responsibility to the state, and therefore the public.
3. HB #4403 is an important step towards ensuring safe, high quality patient care in Michigan by requiring individuals who practice as surgical technologists and surgical first assistants, to become certified, and maintain that national certification, which comes with the all important minimum education and hands-on experience for entry into the field.
4. HB #4403 serves to protect the broad delegatory authority of the physician as defined not only in Michigan's Medical Practice Act, but also by the American College of Surgeons. We support this bill because it clearly defines the delegatory relationship between surgeons and surgical technologists and assistants.
5. Finally, this is a quality assurance issue, which safeguards the patient in the operating room, by serving the public's best interest; no one will be displaced from employment as a result of supporting this bill.